Vol. VI. Numb. 62

THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on the King of Sweden's *Treaty with the Emperor; and on that King's Piety, and wise Conduct, in not letting himself be the Property of Favourites, or extending his Goodness only to a Party. A Letter from* Portsmouth, *complaining of Abuses in the Fleet: With Proposals for redressing and preventing such Abuses.*

From **Wednesday**, October 1. to **Saturday**, October 4. 1707.

Country-m. MAster, let's have a little Discourse about our *Northern* Protestant Hero, the King of *Sweden*. Pray read his Articles with the Emperor, and give me your Opinion of 'em?

Obs. Roger, the Articles speak for themselves, and at once shew the King of *Sweden*'s Zeal and Greatness of Mind. He acts like a Prince, whose Council does not ride all upon one Horse. He sees with his own Eyes, hears with his own Ears, and does not suffer himself to be besieg'd with Favourites, or made their Property. He acts like a Prince, who knows that Rulers are appointed for the Good of Mankind, and not to be ingross'd by any Faction, or to have their Authority and Power made a Stale to heap all the Riches and Honours in his Disposal upon a few Families. There's no *Pontchartrain* about him, to apply his Treasury to the sole Use of those who will become State-Idolaters, and pay that Respect to the Servant, that is due only to the Master, who becomes a Fountain of Bribery himself, and disperses the Streams of his Corruption thro' all the Branches of the Administration. There's no *Maintenon* about him, to have the sole Priviledge, like *Mahomet*'s Pigeon, to whisper in his Ear, and allow no Honour or Bounty to be dispensed, but what she must first be pay'd for, without bringing one Liard into her Master's Treasury. There's no She-Favourite about him, to create Jealousies betwixt him and his presumptive Successor, as Madam *Maintenon* does betwixt the *French* King and the Dauphin; for we see he cherishes the Family of *Holstein*, entertains them in his Court and Camp, and takes Care of them in his Treaties, tho' they have the Reversion of his Crown. In a Word, *Roger*, the King of *Sweden* makes good the late King *William*'s Character of him, *That he was the growing Hopes of Europe:* And as he honours God by a religious Life, and a strict Discipline in his Court and Camp, God has honour'd him to drive a Popish King from his Throne, who had barter'd his Religion for the Pageantry of wearing a Crown; and to bring the chief of the Popish Powers to do Justice to part of their oppress'd Protestant Subjects, whereby we have as many Protestant Churches restor'd to us in one part, as were fraudulently taken from us in another by the Treaty of *Ryswick*. His Greatness of Mind, is so much the more remarkable in this, *Roger*, that he has not confin'd his Goodness only to those of his own Way, but has obtain'd Restitution to the *Calvinists*, as well as to the *Lutherans*; and like a Great Prince, who knows that all capable Subjects have a natural Right to partake of publick Posts under their Soveraigns, tho' they may differ from them in Points of Religion, as well as the supream Magistrate has a natural Right to the Service of all his Subjects; he has taken Care, that a Pretext of Religion shall not be made a Stalking-horse for one Faction, to engross all the Power and Profit of the Administration, exclusive of other Subjects, who differ in Opinion from the Prince; and therefore has made the *Silesian* Protestants capable of Posts in the Government, as well as the Papists.

Country-m. God bless him in all such Undertakings. Master, if you please, we will talk a little of our Naval Affairs; I doubt not but you have as much Kindness for our Sailors, who are the Men that guard and defend the Walls of our Nation; and for our Merchants and Tradesmen, who are the main Support of our Wealth, and of the Queen's Revenue, as my old Master had. Here's a Letter to him from *Portsmouth*, dated the 25th of *Sept.* last. If you please, pray give me your Opinion about the Contents.

Obs. Roger, we are to avoid personal Reflections. I can hardly believe any Men intrusted with the Command of the Queen's Ships, dare either to be out of the Way so often themselves, or suffer their Ships Crews to be drunk in Bawdy-Houses, *&c.* or stay for Materials to make Punch, when the Wind presents fair, to convoy the Merchant Ships and Horses bound to *Lisbon*, especially if the Horses be in such a Condition as the Writer of that Letter says. If the Fact be so, why did not the Persons aggriev'd, address themselves to the Admiralty for Relief? They cannot redress a Wrong, 'till they know it! It's my Opinion, *Roger*, that the Merchant-men, who have waited so long for a Convoy, should rather have writ up to their Owners to complain to the Admiralty, if any Person, under their Jurisdiction, be guilty of what this Letter says, than follow the Example of the *Triton* and *Unity*, who, the Writer says, rather than waste their Substance and Time, put to Sea without Convoy. If our Merchants be aggriev'd, and will not complain in due Time to those who can give 'em Redress, especially now the Parliament is approaching, let them suffer on; they deserve no Pity, because they not only wrong themselves, but the whole Kingdom, by putting up such Abuses. In the mean time, *Roger*, this Hint is enough to shew, that you and I neglect

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no Opportunity of ſerving the Publick; but we muſt be juſt to all Mankind; and if any Perſon think themſelves reflected upon by this Letter, and ſend us their Defence, we ſhall be equally careful to inſert it, that both Sides may be heard, and the Innocent not wrong'd.

Country-m. You ſay right, Maſter; but ſince ſuch Neglects and ill Practices have but too frequently happen'd, what do you think the beſt Way to prevent 'em in Time to come?

Obſ. To puniſh well for paſt Faults, is certainly one of the beſt Ways to prevent the committing of new ones: But farther, *Roger*, (with Submiſſion to our Superiors, who are beſt able to judge whether it be neceſſary) I can ſee no Hurt in taking a Review, and making a new Regulation in our Fleet, as the Elector of *Hannover* has done in the Imperial Army; and if Commiſſioners were appointed for that End by the Queen and approaching Parliament, we have good Reaſon to expect, that the Nation would receive full Satisfaction in that Matter; Not that I am for taking any part of the Adminiſtration out of the Hands of the Queen, where our Conſtitution has lodg'd it; but as it is impoſſible that ſo Great a Government as ours, which has large Dommions, both in the old and new World, can be manag'd by the Prince alone, without the Help of Council! And ſince the Parliament is the Great Inqueſt and Council of the Nation; it can be no Diminution of her Majeſty's Authority, to take their Help in finding out Grievances, and their Advice in redreſſing them. The Lords are her Majeſty's and the Nation's Council by Birth-right, and the Commons are ſo by her Majeſty's Writs and the Nation's Choice. We have divine Authority for it, *that in the Multitude of Councellors, there is Safety*: And Experience has taught us, that the Nation never can be eaſy or ſafe, but when the Prince and Parliament are in a good Underſtanding, and go Hand in Hand in enquiring into, and redreſſing Grievances.

For what the Gentleman mentions in his Letter, That the *French* ſweep the Seas, from the Rock of *Liſbon*, to the Coaſts of *Muſcovy*, I am ſorry there's too much Truth in it; and am of Opinion, conſidering the Great Naval Power of *England* and *Holland*, it might be prevented, were proper Meaſures taken; either by appointing Men of War of both Countries, to guard the Seas, and for that End, aſſigning them convenient Stations; or by encouraging private Adventurers, to ſet out Capers, or Letters of Mark-Ships, by Premiums from the Government, ſo that they might both convoy our Merchant Ships upon Occaſion, or infeſt the Enemy; and when over-power'd, it were no Diſgrace for them to run; which our Men of War cannot ſo well do, without expoſing the Honour of the Nation. We find the *Dutch*, by keeping Privateers conſtantly in the *Mediterranean*, and elſewhere, make frequent Reprizals upon the *French*, and take rich Ships, few of which fall at any Time to our Share; which is a Loſs, as well as Diſgrace to a Country ſo powerful at Sea as *England*.

As to that part of the Gentleman's Complaint, of our Captains and Sea-men being aſhoar, and ſpending their Money and Strength in Debauches, when they ſhould be aboard to attend the Nation's Service; I know no better Way, *Roger*, to prevent it, than by taking Care, that our Captains be Men of Probity, of known Skill in Naval Affairs, and of true Courage and Conduct: Of ſuch, God be thank'd, there are enough in *England*: And were there like Care taken that the Chaplains be Men of Piety, and not ſuch as give ill Examples to the Sailors, or curb'd by the Officers in the Exerciſe of what belongs to their Function, we might hope that the Debauchery and open Impiety of our Sea-men, ſo much complain'd of, might ſpeedily be reform'd; whereas if the Captains, Lieutenants, and other Officers, be Men of vicious Lives, we can expect nothing but raging Impiety among our Sea-men; and by Conſequence, inſtead of defending the Walls of the Nation, that they ſhould draw down Judgments upon us, and be blaſted in all their Enterprizes: But we ſhall talk more of this another time, *Roger*: I ſhall only add at preſent, as my humble Opinion, that it were a good Way to prevent our Sea-mens debauching aſhoar, when they ſhould be at their Duty on board, were the Magiſtrates of our Sea-ports impower'd to go the Rounds every Evening, to ſearch all publick and other ſuſpected Houſes; and to ſend the Sea-men on board, except there be good Reaſons for the contrary, without being liable to Inſults by Captains, or other Officers; which, whenever they happen, ought to be ſeverely puniſh'd, becauſe every Affront put upon the Civil Power, is an Affront to her Majeſty's Perſon and Authority. So good Night, *Roger*.

Advertiſements.

*** This is to give Notice, That this OBSERVATOR is continu'd for the Uſe of Mr. Tutchin's Widow, with the ſame Number and Volume, by one that was a particular Friend to Mr. Tutchin, was an Aſſiſtant to him, gave him ſeveral Hints, and was throughly acquainted with his Method. Note, That whatever Paper of this kind, that has not the Words as at the bottom of this Obſervator, is to the Prejudice and Wrong of the deſtitute Widow and her Children.

Juſt publiſh'd, the ſecond Part of

*** Reflections Moral, Comical, Satyrical, *&c.* on the Vices and Follies of the Age. Containing, 1. An Epirgram againſt the Fear of Death. From the *Greek*. 2. A Satyr, occaſion'd by a ſurprizing Number of Flies which fell in *London* and *Weſtminſter* on the 19th of *July* 1707. In a Dialougue between *Formal* and *Freeman*. 3. Upon the Perjury of Lovers. In Imitation of *Callimachus*, one of the *Greek* Poets. 4. Upon the Inconveniency that attends us in doating upon Wine and Women. In Imitation of the *Greek*, after the Manner of *Eratoſthenes*. 5. Upon the famous Mr. *H——ns*. A Satyr. 6. One's own is always beſt. 7. His Miſtreſs compared to the four Seaſons of the Year. 8. An Anacreontick, written extempore, full of *Bacchus*, and crowned with Chaplets of Flowers, *A-la-mode de Greece*. 9. An Epigram of *Martial*, *Engliſhed*. 10. A Satyr againſt Tyranny. 11. On an old Beau. 12. An Epigram on the Union. 13. The Antiplatonick's Reſolution. 14. The Platonick's Anſwer. 15. *Braudibella*; or, The Lover's Scarecrow. 16. A ſerenading Song. In Imitation of *Horace*. 17. On a Nobleman's Ague. 18. On a rich inviting Poet. 19. Part of the 15th Satyr of *Juvenal* imitated; in which the Folly and Superſtition of the *Ægyptians* is ridiculed. 20. The Trinity. Part II. To be continued occaſionally. By ſeveral good Hands. Sold by *B. Bragge* in *Pater-Noſter-Row*. Price 6 *d.* Where may be had Part I. Price 6 *d.*

Juſt publiſh'd,

*** An Elegy on Mr. John Tutchin, Author of the Obſervator, who departed this Life on Tueſday the 2d of this Inſtant September, 1707. in the 44th Year of his Age. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 1*d*

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*** Any Gentleman, who us'd to ſend Notice of Things formerly to Mr. Tutchin, are deſir'd now to direct them to H. Meere, at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars, for the Obſervator. Where Advertiſements are taken in.

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